

# Zero Beat

## The Hampden County Radio Association, Inc.

Springfield, Massachusetts

ARRL Affiliated, our 39<sup>th</sup> year

### Next Meeting - 902 mhz by W1JR

The topic for the next meeting on 05-Sep-1986 will be 902 mhz. This will include a discussion of antennas, radios, amplifiers, both commercial and home brew equipment for the 902 mhz band. Joe Reisert, W1JR, will be the honored guest speaker. Anyone who reads Ham Radio magazine should be familiar with Joe's contributions to the UHF world via his continuing series of monthly articles. Joe is a well versed speaker and is very knowledgeable with years of technical and operating experiences in all aspects of amateur radio, including DX and EME. This should prove to be an exciting and very interesting topic to start off the new season. Anyone interested in this newly allocated band should plan to attend.

### Fall License Classes

The HCRA will again sponsor license classes this fall. We will offer classes from Novice through Advanced, and Extra if we have both instructors and students to meet the demand. This year we have moved the classes to Wednesday night. As Zero Beat goes to press we have not confirmed the starting date, so keep an ear on the local nets, or contact one of the HCRA board members for more information. Following the classes will be an HCRA sponsored ARRL/VEC exam. If you would like to help as an instructor please contact any board member. Now's the time to upgrade!

## Support the HCRA!

### A Different Opinion.....

A lot lately has been said about the new novice proposal supported by the ARRL. I think at times we tend to hear only the negative comments, and the positive comments seem to slide by. Well, I for one support the overall proposal. We all are painfully aware that the number of Novices has slowly decreased over the past couple of years. True, some have upgraded, but too large a portion have dropped out. Something must be done.

I am not so sure that giving them limited phone privileges would create another CB band, but probably the potential for that to happen is there. I do think there is more of a chance of Amateur Radio becoming more attractive to interested non-hams. The old adage goes "...get their attention by hitting them squarely between the eyes with a two-by-four." I think this proposal will tend to "grab them" if it is accepted by the FCC.

I think it's up to the ham community (that's us!) to not drop the ball whether this proposal or a similar one is adopted. We, of course, should have classes for Novices as we do now, but we should follow up and track these new Novices which is something we do not do. After the new Novice has received his or her license, someone the Novice has met at the class should see if they need help with antennas, rigs, or even making a contact. Sometimes all it takes is someone to be in the same room with them while they make their first contact.

We should see that this new ham is channeled into the club to participate in the meetings and other activities including contests and the like. Also be sure to encourage and follow up on the new ham's progress to assure the his or her interest continues, particularly through the participation in classes to upgrade. The object is to encourage the would-be CB'ers to go further in his or her ham radio participation.

Do not forget that whatever proposal is adopted it won't please everybody, but more important, does it attempt to address the problem of allowing us to get more Novices? If we get more Novices, we have the opportunity to control our own future.

Remember, this is just like the tax bill, you can't please everybody, but at least we are doing something, and seem to be heading in the right direction.

de Steve WA1EYF

Please remember that HCRA dues run from September thru June! Please see the enclosed form for more information...

## Minutes of the Annual Meeting 06-Jun-1986

The annual meeting and banquet was held at 7:00 PM at the Feeding Hills Congregational Church, in Feeding Hills, MA.

At 7:00 PM the HCRA members and guests attended a banquet arranged by Ron, WB1ETS.

At approximately 7:45 PM our guest speaker, Dave Sumner, K1ZZ, spoke to the attendees about the new Novice proposal that the ARRL is supporting. An active question and answer period followed. K1ZZ also talked about opportunities with packet radio, remote control of equipment, group stations and the growing problem of electronics in the household.

Awards were given to WA1OCK for his outstanding service rebroadcasting the Space Shuttle missions, and to K1BE for his years of service, including editor of Zero Beat.

At approximately 8:30 PM the business portion of the annual meeting started with President KA1KPH highlighting the year.

Treasurer N1AEH gave his report. Our balance is approximately \$3,000, with about \$1,200 of that allocated to the repeater sub-group. We also had \$1,400 in donations this year.

WB1ETS spoke about the repeater sub-group.

K1BXE spoke about the past and upcoming Volunteer exam sessions sponsored by the club.

On behalf of the Board and Members, WB1ETS was recognized for his work in setting up the banquet.

President KA1KPH asked for comments on the revised by-laws, as distributed. None were received. Motion was made that the by-laws be adopted as is. Seconded. All in favor, none opposed.

WA1OCK asked why we didn't have liability insurance for the club and officers. Some discussion occurred. WA1EYF asked that the matter be tabled to the next board meeting, with WA1OCK invited to attend.

WA1EYF, as chair of the nominating committee, presented the proposed slate of officers and directors for the 1986 - 1987 year as follows:

The following directors have one year remaining on their terms: WB1GLX, K1BXE, KA1JDY, KA1MEW.

The nominating committee recommends the following for two year terms as directors: NB1R, KD9MU, ND1P, WB1ETS.

The following were recommended for one year terms as officers, to also hold seats as directors: President KA1KPH, Vice President AC1T, Treasurer N1AEH, Secretary & Clerk WA1EYF.

No nominations were brought up from the floor and the nominations were declared closed and seconded, all were in favor. Motion was made that the secretary cast one vote in favor of electing the slate as presented. Motion seconded and all in favor, none opposed. New slate of officers elected.

Respectfully submitted,  
Steve Nelson WA1EYF,  
Clerk, Hampden County Radio Association, Inc.

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### HCRA Repeater Sub-Group

Ron Beauchemin, WB1ETS, has been appointed the chair of the repeater sub-group committee. This committee has two other (non-board) members: Lil, KA1MPS, and Steve, WA1HFF. The purpose of the sub-group committee is to encourage improvements in the HCRA affiliated communications systems, and serve as *your* representative between the HCRA board and the trustees of the machines.

The KA1KPH-1 packet radio digipeater on 145.010 mhz is no longer on the air! Bob donated the equipment to the club, and John, KD9MU, has assumed the duties as trustee of the digipeater. It now signs the club call: W1NY-1, and is still on 145.010 mhz. John plans a number of improvements and enhancements; watch your favorite PBBS and Zero Beat for more information!

The KA1KPH/R 449.175 mhz repeater has received an automatic controlled two meter remote base. A two meter transceiver has been connected to the controller, and can be remotely programmed to any two meter frequency, both repeaters and simplex. At this time the use of the two meter remote base will be limited, as a number of technical issues remain to be addressed. You are encouraged to make use of it when its up.....for example, Sunday mornings at 9:00 AM you will find the repeater linked to the K1FFK 2m

*continued on next page...*

repeater for the Western Mass Emergency Net. Please check in if you here it up! In addition, the link may be utilized for NOAA weather nets as storms enter our area. Other half-finished summer projects include wind speed and direction, and a digital barometer for the repeater.

The KA1KPH/R 70cm machine experienced its first down time in over a year and one-half, after three direct hits to Provin Mountain in an electrical storm finally brought death to the GaAs FET preamp. You may have noticed that it operated for a number of days with reduced receive ability waiting for the new device to be installed in the preamp. The preamp's been replaced, and everything is back to normal thanks to John, AC1T.

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## VHF Contest Results

The HCRA club station W1NY was again activated for the June 1986 VHF contest, and with superior results! It all goes to prove that you do not have to be on top of the highest hill to make a serious effort in a club contest. The following two tables list the equipment utilized in this effort, and the scores for W1NY. Many thanks to Fred, N1DPM, who led the effort in this success, and to the other operators: AC1T, NC1B, W1KK, KA1ZE, WA1HFF, WA1EYF, WA1UQC, KA1HTK. Also many thanks to those who, over the past few months, lent a hand in building a better first class station for the W1NY effort.

Six meter operation included A1A and J3E modes using Drake R4C, T4XC, TC6, SC6, a P50VD preamp, a home brew 4-1000A amp, and four 7 element KLM 6M-7LD antennas, top one at 90 feet.

The two meter operation on A1A and J3E utilized Drake R4C, T4XC, TC2, SC2, a P144VDG preamp, a homebrew 4CX1000A amp, and four 17 element 3.2λ antennas at 90 feet. On two meter FM a Kenwood TS700S, Tempo 2002 amp, and a ringo ranger at the top of the tower were utilized.

On 220 mhz A1A and J3E modes a Yaesu FT101ZD and a MMT 220-28, a P220VDG preamp, and AM6155 amp were in use. On 220 mhz FM a 13509 and 70w KLM amp were utilized. The 220 antennas were a 15 element 4.2λ at 60 feet and a 14 element KLM at 65 feet.

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## Upgrade classes this fall sponsored by the HCRA!

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On 432 mhz both A1A and J3E operation was found using a Yaesu FT102 and a MMT 432-28, a P432VDG preamp, 4CX350A amp, and 18 element K2RIW yagi at 70 feet. On 70 cm FM a Kenwood TW-4000A and ringo ranger at 90 feet were utilized.

50 mhz	385 QSOs	132 mult	385 points
144 mhz	283 QSOs	39 mult	283 points
220 mhz	61 QSOs	19 mult	122 points
432 mhz	101 QSOs	21 mult	202 points

Totals 830 QSOs 211 mult 992 points  
Claimed Score: 209,312 points

Our effort in this contest was run within the rules and regs set up by the FCC and ARRL.  
de Fred Stefanik, N1DPM 07-Jul-1986

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## HCRA Sponsored ARRL/VEC Exam

On Wednesday, 09-Jul-1986, the Hampden County Radio Association held an FCC Exam session at the Minnechaug Regional High School in Wilbraham, MA. Congradulations go out to the following attendees who received upgrades:

KA1NEV Ira - Advanced  
KA1MEW Jeanette - Amateur Extra  
KA1NCX Carol - General  
KA1LPF Doug - General  
KA1OFC Paul - Technician

Also many thanks to the ARRL/VEC examiners that were present at the session: NB1R Ned, W1HOD Doc, KA1KPH Bob, WA1EYF Steve, ND1P Ken, N1AEH Greg, KA1KRJ Jack, KA1MPA Bob.

The next HCRA sponsored exam session that is pre-scheduled is in December at the conclusion of the fall license classes.

The HCRA VE teams are available to set up special exam sessions for up to five examinees on request, or for individuals requiring special exam conditions. If you can't make it to one of our sessions, or other local sessions, and would like to take an exam, please contact us! We will arrange to have three examiners meet with you and administer the exams of your choice. Please contact Yorke, K1BXE, HCRA VE exam coordinator, or Bob, KA1KPH, HCRA President, for more details and scheduling.

## The Back Page

By the time you read this all comments should be in on the Novice enhancement NRPM 86-161.....It should be interesting when the final Report and Order comes out.....a good source thinks maybe December.....

### Hampden County Radio Association Officers and Board of Directors 1986 - 1987

The following officers and directors were elected at the June 1986 HCRA annual meeting. The four officers each have one year terms. The other directors' terms run for two years; four will expire at the end of this year.

*President*  
KA1KPH Bob McCormick

*Vice President*  
AC1T John Balboni

*Treasurer*  
N1AEH Greg Stoddard

*Secretary & Clerk*  
WA1EYF Steve Nelson

*Directors 1985 - 1987*  
K1BXE Yorke Phillips  
KA1MEW Jeanette Platanitis  
KA1JDY Bob Archambault  
WB1GLX Ray Burk

*Directors 1986 - 1988*  
NB1R Ned Carpenter  
WB1ETS Ron Beauchemin  
KD9MU John Fleckenstein  
ND1P Ken Grady

## 1986 - 1987 Meeting Dates

05-Sep-86	03-Oct-86
07-Nov-86	05-Dec-86
09-Jan-87	06-Feb-87
06-Mar-87	03-Apr-87
??-May-87	05-Jun-87

### Next Meeting Friday 05-Sep-1986 902 mhz by W1JR

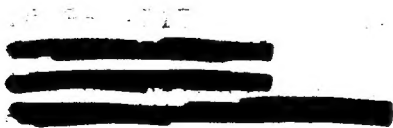
Joe Reisert will speak on 902 mhz, with information on equipment and operation. Please don't forget our fall license classes on Wednesday evenings. The November meeting will be the annual auction at the Granger School in Feeding Hills. The May flea market date has not been set - watch Zero Beat for more info. We have a number of new topics and speakers for this season and hope you can stop by and visit with us!

Hampden County  
Radio Association, Inc.

P O Box 482  
West Springfield MA 01090-0482

Nonprofit Org.  
US Postage  
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Springfield, MA  
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25-Aug-1986



# Hampden County Radio Association

## Application for Membership

Call: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_  
 State: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Please check one box for each of the following questions:

License Class?	<input type="checkbox"/> Studying	<input type="checkbox"/> Novice	<input type="checkbox"/> Technician
	<input type="checkbox"/> General	<input type="checkbox"/> Advanced	<input type="checkbox"/> Amateur Extra
ARRL?	<input type="checkbox"/> Life Member	<input type="checkbox"/> Member	<input type="checkbox"/> Non-Member
VE Status?	<input type="checkbox"/> Accredited	<input type="checkbox"/> Non-Accredited	(for Advanced & Extra only)
ARES?	<input type="checkbox"/> Member	<input type="checkbox"/> Non-Member	

## Annual Membership Dues

September 1986 through June 1987

See reverse side for more info

The regular HCRA Membership is \$9.00, with members under 18 years old only \$5.00. Additional family members residing at the same mailing address are FREE! Please note the names and calls of family members on the reverse side. Membership in the repeater sub-group is an additional \$10.00, and you may optionally choose where to allocate your repeater membership dues. All dues are payable by November first each year.

HCRA Membership (Check One - Required) ☐ \$9.00 or ☐ \$5.00  
 Repeater Sub-Group (Optional - Thank You) ☐ \$10.00

Optional allocation of repeater dues - must add up to \$10.00

\_\_\_\_ 2m FM      \_\_\_\_ 70cm FM      \_\_\_\_ Packet      \_\_\_\_ ATV

You may advance order the 1987 Callbooks directly from the HCRA. Callbooks will be only \$17.00 and will be available on or after 01-Dec-1986.

\_\_\_\_ North American callbooks at \$17.00 each \$\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_ International callbooks at \$17.00 each \$\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable: HCRA, Inc.

Total Enclosed: \$\_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Greg Stoddard, N1AEH, 1500 Mapleton Ave, Suffield CT 06078



## Hampden County Radio Association

### Application for Membership Instructions

The Hampden County Radio Association, Inc. is a non-profit tax-exempt corporation. Our primary charter is the education of the public in technical skills, operating practices and ethical conduct relating to amateur radio communications. The HCRA sponsors classes in radio theory and operation for individuals who are interested in taking FCC examinations.

The HCRA is affiliated with the American Radio Relay League, of Newington, CT. The HCRA has attained the status of Special Service Club for its varied accomplishments. Through the ARRL/VEC program, the HCRA administers FCC exams for those individuals interested in obtaining an FCC amateur radio license.

The HCRA holds monthly meetings, at which time lectures and demonstrations promoting radio and television electronics and operating procedures are presented. The HCRA also publishes a monthly newsletter, Zero Beat, with additional news and information on club activities, advancements in amateur radio, and technical discussions.

HCRA membership is granted to any individual who has a sincere interest in amateur radio. Although an amateur radio license is not necessary for membership, only those individuals who hold a valid amateur radio license have full voting privileges. Membership dues are \$9.00 per year, which runs from September through June. Dues are payable by November first each of each year.

In order to promote growth in the amateur ranks by younger individuals, a reduced rate of \$5.00 per year is available for those under 18 years of age. The HCRA also has a special family membership plan. With one regular paid \$9.00 membership, all other individuals living at the same mailing address can become HCRA members AT NO ADDITIONAL COST! Just include their names and calls below. Please note that only one copy of Zero Beat will be mailed to the indicated address.

The HCRA also sponsors a repeater sub-group, and currently has four systems available. Recently the HCRA acquired ownership of the packet radio digipeater on 145.010 mhz. In addition, the HCRA maintains agreements with voice repeaters operating on 147.105 mhz and 449.175 mhz; and an ATV repeater.

Membership in the repeater sub-group is optional; your support is welcome! HCRA membership is a prerequisite for sub-group membership. The dues are \$10.00 per year, with no discount for under 18. All family members at the same address become members with the one payment, as is with normal membership.

On the membership form you may optionally designate where you would like your repeater sub-group dues to be allocated. Please indicated whole dollar amounts; they must add up to exactly \$10.00. You can directly support the machine(s) that you utilize. If you choose not to allocate your dues, the funds will be made available to all machines.

Remember:

Repeater sub-group membership is optional!

Your \$9.00 HCRA dues support general club activities, and the Zero Beat newsletter.

Repeater sub-group dues support the various machines available to club members.

The HCRA is taking orders for 1987 Callbooks. Both the North American and International editions will be \$17.00 if you include payment with your dues. Please indicate the quantity of each that you desire on the membership application form. Order early so that we may guarantee your delivery hot off the press in December. Last date for call book orders is 31-Oct-1986. Do it today; don't delay!

Please mail this form with your check to Greg Stoddard, or you may bring it to any club meeting!

Our club address is: Hampden County Radio Association, Inc., P O Box 482, West Springfield MA 01090

#### Family Members

Call	Name	Call	Name
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____